

Message Text

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UNCLAS SANTIAGO 1737

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, SHUM

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

REF: SANTIAGO 1688

1. MINISTER JUSTICE SCHWEITZER EMULATED SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE'S VISIT TO TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER IN SANTIAGO (REFTEL), BUT THIS TIME IN MIDDLE OF NIGHT. SCHWEITZER WENT TO CENTER DURING NIGHT OF MARCH 3/4 AT MIDNIGHT AND STAYED UNTIL 3:00 A.M. HE REPORTEDLY SPENT HIS TIME IN THE RESTRICTED SECTION OF THE CENTER KNOWN AS CUATRO ALAMOS, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA).
 2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SCHWEITZER TOOK WITH HIM HIS DEPUTY WHO IS A NAVY CAPTAIN, AND TWO DOCTORS WHO ARE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE. HE EXAMINED FACILITY, REVIEWED RECORDS OF ENTRY AND DEPARTURE OF PRISONERS, MEDICAL RECORDS, AND GROUP OF DETAINEES SELECTED AT RANDOM FOR INTERVIEWS. ONLY ONE ACCEPTED OFFER OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER.
 3. SCHWEITZER HAS REPORTEDLY INFORMED BOTH PRESIDENT
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PINOCHET AND MINISTER INTERIOR BENAVIDES OF HIS FIND-

INGS, AND INDICATED HE WILL CONTINUE SURPRISE VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS UNDER PROVISIONS DECREE 187.

4. LEADING MAGAZINE "QUE PASA" WHICH IS STRONGLY PRO-JUNTA BUT HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO VOICE CONCERN (SANTIAGO 1043) OVER SOME POLICIES OF GOC, CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE ON MARCH 4. INTERVIEWER ASKED EYZAGUIRRE POINTED QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF DETENTION CENTERS OTHER THAN THOSE RECENTLY LISTED BY GOC. EYZAGUIRRE DISCOUNTED THIS AS VERY UNLIKELY, SAYING THAT HE MUST BELIEVE IN THE GOOD FAITH WHICH INSPIRED THE GOVERNMENT TO LIST DETENTION CENTERS.

5. COMMENT: EYZAGUIRRE IS SKATING ON VERY THIN ICE. IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED IN CHILE THAT SECURITY FORCES MAINTAIN "PRIVATE" INTERROGATION CENTERS WHERE MOST OF ABUSES OCCUR. AS CENTERS BECOME KNOWN, THEY ARE ABANDONED AND OTHERS OPENED. IF GOC DOES NOT ADHERE TO LETTER OF SUPREME DECREE 187, AND IF EVIDENCE OF "BAD FAITH" SHOULD BECOME APPARENT, A PROUD AND REASONABLY INDEPENDENT MAN LIKE EYZAGUIRRE MIGHT SOME DAY FIND HIMSELF FORCED INTO CONFRONTATION WITH GOC. POPPER

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